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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, October 21, 2011, at 10 a.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2011

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, your infinite greatness compels us to give You praise. Today we ask that You would help our Senators to reach their full ethical stature by deepening their sense of the stewardship of all that they have and are by the power of Your spirit within them.

Lord, our challenging times demand such ethical and moral fitness so that problems can be solved with the collaborative and courageous spirit. Like streams of flowing water through our common days, You continue to refresh us with Your merciful goodness. Make us worthy of Your generosity as we strive daily to please and honor You.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable TOM UDALL led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 20, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The assistant majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. DURBIN. Following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2112, the Agriculture, CJS, and Transportation appropriations bill. At noon there will be three rollcall votes. The first vote will be on the confirmation of Heather Higginbottom to be Deputy Director of OMB. The second vote will be in relation to the Vitter amendment. The third vote will be in relation to the Webb amendment.

The filing deadline for first-degree amendments to the substitute amendment and H.R. 2112 is 1 p.m. today.

There will be another series of up to four rollcall votes at approximately 2 p.m. in relation to additional amendments to the bill. Further rollcall votes are expected during today's session in order to complete action on the bill.

We also hope to vote on the confirmation of the nomination of John Bryson to be Commerce Secretary as well today. Additionally, cloture was filed on the motions to proceed to S. 1723 and S. 1726. If no agreement is reached, these cloture votes will occur on Friday.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

JOB CREATION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, as we all know, the No. 1 issue on the minds of most Americans is jobs, and I think it is pretty clear both parties are focused on that issue right now.

I also think it is safe to say the two parties have a fundamentally different take on the solution. For Democrats, the solution, apparently, is to increase the number of people who work for the government. My good friend, the majority leader, made this pretty clear yesterday when he said the private sector "is doing just fine" and that the President's latest stimulus is focused on government jobs instead.

Republicans take a different view. We recognize that government has an

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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